POPULAR ASTRONOMY. By G. B. AIRY, Astronomer Royal.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.
1861 November 16

Dear Sir

On returning from an absence of a few days, I find your letter of 9th inst., proposing that I should give a lecture before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Sheffield.

I am much flattered both by the request and by the terms in which you have been so kind as to express it.

H. C. Sorby Esq.

But I fear that it may be impossible for me to accede to it. Under present ~~circumstances~~ engagements I certainly could not undertake to give the time required.

Undoubtedly the circumstance to which you allude, of the existence of the illustrations which were used at Manchester for the lecture on the Solar Eclipse, would facilitate another lecture on that subject. But a lecture which must necessarily bear an almost verbal resemblance to one so lately published in all the newspapers would, I fear, have little attraction for the Society.

As I have said above, I am at present and shall be for a time so much tied by the business of my office that I cannot undertake for any thing. But I should be glad to offer my little assistance, if opportunity served, to a provincial scientific society; and, if it appear feasible to do any thing, I shall have pleasure in again communicating with you. I am, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully

G. B. Airy

AIRY, G.B. ALS 3-26-50

175

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1850 March 26

Gentlemen

All the information that I can give about the state of the Wind on 1847 Sept 16 is to be found in the printed Greenwich Magnetical & Meteorological Observations, of which a copy has been sent to the Ipswich Museum.

Rev: Jonelyn Werthorp

02

Permit me to refer you to that work, as the most accessible and most satisfactory source of the information that you are seeking.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

E. B. Hill

DSI

AIRY, GB ALS 3-12-70

[It is requested that all correspondence on the subject of this letter may be addressed to the Astronomer Royal.]

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3751

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1870 March 12

My dear Sir

I am much obliged by your letter of 11th, and shall be glad to receive your further criticisms on the lectures.

My statement was quite correct in the sense in which I gave it, that is, (referring to the variation chart) as superseding the azimuth observations in the circumstances in which I had spoken of the azimuth observations, namely in the old wood built ships. When I uttered my words, I do not think

Capt. H. Toynbee

P2

that I had once used the experimen
iron-built ships. Perhaps I was
not sufficiently guarded at the time,
but I was fully prepared to guard
myself. You will find the
process to which you allude
described in the Syllabus, bottom
of page 15. Moreover, to
show that a skilful person may
mechanically diminish the trouble
a little, I have a Dumb Card
to produce.

Lam, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

E. Bates

Given me by F. Stevenson.

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich 1841 July 3

Sir

I had the honor, several days past, of receiving your letter of the 19th of May, acquainting me with my election by the Royal Society of Sciences at Copenhagen as one of the small number of their foreign members, and accompanying the Diploma of the Society. I beg you to assure the Members of the Society that I value very highly the honor which they have conferred on me, and that I am exceedingly gratified at finding myself so unexpectedly bound in the ties of friendship and association with the nation which (in its origin) is so nearly related to ~~the~~ my own. And I can truly say that I feel myself not only a prouder man but also a better

Professor Berstedt
Secretary of the Royal Society of Sciences at Copenhagen

friend of mankind, since I received this mark of your Society's kindness.

Permit me to add that it has given me very great pleasure to receive the announcement of my election from one whose name has been familiar to me almost ever since I knew the name of philosophy.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant

G. B. Lidy

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich 18th Oct 20

My dear Sir

I am much grieved to find that I have seemed to you to impute much more to you regarding M. Faye's paper than I had intended. You may suppose that I do not know any thing of the personal relations in the Observatory: but we have a high opinion of French centralization, which I believe is shared with a great part of the world: so that I thought it probable that you had sanctioned the publication of M. Faye's peculiar proposal; and I imagined that the scientific world in general

A Monsieur
Monsieur Arago

would ~~suppose~~ suppose that the paper had your approval. I never supposed for a moment that if you had distinctly seen the part which I felt to be most objectionable you could have sanctioned either the pseudo-science or the spirit of it. And I merely said that perhaps the paper had "in some degree" received your sanction.

I am now sorry that I wrote at all; as I could very well have tolerated the temporary effect of M. Faye's critique, and am much grieved to have given you pain.

I will only repeat that I did not suppose that you were cognizant of M. Faye's attack on me. I am, my dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully

C. Babbage

I have not received the deficient Nos of the Comptes Rendus

Professor Oersted
Royal Academy of Science
Copenhagen

GREENWICH

1/6 13/29

8 7 41

151

(Copy)

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
S.E
1858 August 28

My Lord/

There has been some public discussion in the principal Newspapers, which I think either begun or very soon attracted attention in Parliament, as to the insufficiency of existing legislative provisions for maintaining the Local or Provincial Standards of Length Weight and Measure in a trustworthy condition. I apprehend that the complaint of insufficiency is perfectly well founded. So far as I know there is no provision whatever for the periodical verification of Provincial Standards; and if there were such provision, there is no executive machinery for enforcing it. It seems very desirable that some Officer of State should take up this matter, with the purpose of placing our local measures upon a better footing than they stand at present. I do not imagine that there can be any doubt on the expediency of exercising such active supervision of Local Standards as will insure their constant efficiency, though there may be great latitude of opinion as to the best means of effecting it.

In the meantime I am taking steps, on my own responsibility, for supplying the public immediately surrounding me with means of verifying the ordinary measures of Length. I propose

The R^t Hon: the Lord Monteagle
&c. &c. &c
Comptroller of the Exchequer

G. B. Airy —
Observatory Greenwich
28. Sep. 1869.

propose to fix on the external surface of the Boundary Wall of the Observatory Grounds a certain iron plate bearing hard gun-metal pins, in pairs; the intervals between whose internal surfaces will be respectively 3 feet, 2 feet, 1 foot, 6 inches, 3 inches. I should think it very desirable that verifications of this kind (applying also to measures of Capacity and to Weights, but requiring for them more careful custody) should be made accessible to the Public in all parts of the Kingdom. If your Lordship deems this worthy of your notice, I will at some future time report to you on the success or failure of my little experiment.

I have the honor to be
My Lord
Your Lordship's very faithful servant
G. B. Airy

051

051

(Copy)

Playford near Ipswich
1861 January 14 –

My Lord

I have the honor to communicate to your Lordship that on the 20th Ult: I reported to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that I had examined and fully approved the Gas Measures of Capacities of 1. 5 & 10 Cubic Feet respectively, now mounted in one of the Apartments of the Office of Exchequer; and that I have received Their Lordships' instructions by letter of the 12th Instant to place these Instruments in charge of your Lordship, as Comptroller General of the Exchequer.

I have the honor, in conformity with these Instructions, to transfer the charge of these Instruments from myself to your Lordship, and to request that you will be pleased to accept the said charge. –
And, in token of complete transfer of charge, I have desired Mr George Glover,

The Rt Hon: the Lord Monteagle &c &c &c as
Comptroller General of the Exchequer

as my local representative, to wait on Your Lordship, and to place in your hands the Key of the Apartment.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

very obedient Servant

G. B. Airy

Lincoln's Inn Fields

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1875 November 6

Sir

The laws of spherical aberration and of chromatic aberration, both in telescopes and in microscopes, are totally different.

My papers on the achromatism of eyepieces (1824) and on the spherical aberration (1826 I think) are in two of the earliest volumes, probably II and III or IV, of the Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. You will undoubtedly find these Transactions

Saber Hogg Esqre

Airy

at the Royal Society and at the British Museum.

Lam, Sir,

Your obedient servant

G. Rolleston

DSI

[*It is requested that all correspondence on the subject of this letter may be addressed to the Astronomer Royal.*]

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1870 January 30

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in returning the Certificate for R. Astron. Society with my signature.

I fear that it may have been delayed; I have just returned from the country.

I am, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours

G. B. Airy

150

QUARE

Circum

Kaw

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1867 November 15

My dear Sir

I am advancing at every leisure hour with the lectures, and am now making good way in Lecture Lx — so there is hope that the thing may be finished at some time or other.

Several days ago I sent you one half sheet for Three and three (I think) for Revise. I hope that you will keep the printer in the most exact order as

George Ransome Esqre

Airy.

to the return of single Proofs and double Proofs, or he will crave me.

I do not know the printer's address; but I think that some trouble would be spared if he sent directly to me ~~without~~ and I to him without annoying you.

I am, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours

G. Bolley

Royal Observatory Greenwich
Wed Dec 26

Dear Sir

Upon looking over my private set of Volumes of the Philosophical Transactions, I find that 1846 parts 2 and 3 are wanting; and, so far as I can discover, they have never been sent to me. Would you have the kindness to refer to the Delivery books, and if they have not been sent, would you let Mr. Williams take them and forward them by the earliest opportunity.

Dear Sir Your truly

C Babbage Esq.

G B Airy

210 Oerg

93,252,7

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1855 June 8

Dear Sheldon

Thank you for the pains that you are taking in this Melbourne business and the orderly shape into which you are putting it.

I send my signature to Drummonds' today.

Yours very truly

G B Airy

Office time
I find that Yours will always be one

Professor Sheldon

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1851 November 24

Dear Sir

Your Eclipse account is at present at the apartments of the R. Astronomical Society: but if it falls in my power I will give you the opportunity of making the insertion which you mention.

I saw Mr. Bachhouse's account in a newspaper of which a copy was sent to me

I am, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours
G. B. Airy

W. Gray Esq.

G. B. Airy
Rt Obr
Greenwich

Mr. Simmons 1870 Feb 28

The two long boxes of Diagrams are to be removed to the Glass Shed, to go with the other things.

Wanted 6 thin boards each 6 inches square, I will show about their mounting.

S. Kirby

SC
NAM

DSI

Sherborne Cambridge 1832 Nov 4

My dear Sir

I have not been able yet to look over Grantbridge, but I will look at it carefully and return it as soon as possible. With a very, very few exceptions I have seen some things that are hardly fit for publication

I return Hardwick's letters which Mr Baily sent me a few days since. I am exceedingly glad that measures have been taken for making him more comfortable for I really believe that he is the ablest man for that situation that could have been found in England

I am my dear Sir

Faithfully yours

Capt. Beaufort

J. W. Herschel

DSI

Mr. Airy requests that Mr. Pond will have the goodness to ascertain from Mrs. Storer whether she recollects any circumstance which can serve to determine the exact place of Flamsteed's well and the probable difficulties of opening it. In particular, whether Mrs. Storer can give statements on the following points:

The old traditions respecting the well.

The nature of the work going on when the well was discovered.

The place where the well was discovered

The depth at which it was discovered

The nature of the wood-work, brick-work, &c. discovered in the well.

The way in which it was closed up.

The year (as near as may be) when this discovery occurred

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1839 June 4

Airy (Sir G.B.) 1801-92
Astronomer Royal 7/6

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1851 November 29

Sir

Since you were so good as to call here, I have been so much harassed with business that I have scarcely been able to think of the little observation.

Perhaps something like what I enclose may suit your purpose.

Yours, Sir,
Your obedient servant
G. B. Airy

Robert R. Thomas Moore Esq.

nsl

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1841 Feb. 8

Customwood

Dear Drinkwater

With this comes a proof by Saturday (which was too late for insertion in the book, and is but just printed), and a Draft of Report. Pray study it well. I have in many respects departed considerably from your notions; but I do not think that it would be feasible to carry yours.

I propose to offer the Draft for consideration on the 11th and to take the business in the following order,

1st Preliminary
2nd Amend and agree upon preamble.
3rd Amend and agree upon the arrangement of Sections
4th Amend and agree upon each paragraph separately
5th Agree to adopt the whole as amended

Pray arrange your remarks in an order conformable to this course of proceeding if possible. Yours very truly

G. B. Airy

J. E. Drinkwater Bethune Esq.

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1850 March 7

My dear Sir

I shall be ready as far as my mental plan of lecture goes, for the 15th, and will trouble you for information on two points — 1° What is your hour of dinner? — 2° At what hour will the lecture room be at liberty for me?

I shall want the power of a pretty good

Rev. John Barlow

galvanic battery with connecting screws, which I have no doubt Faraday can supply. — Also a long stick to point to my highest diagrams, which is probably to be found in the rooms, but which I can easily bring. — And I believe nothing else.

I am desirous of inviting some few friends to admission to the lecture. Is it usual for the authorities of the Institution to give that indulgence in similar instances?

Adieu, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

G. B. Airy

DSI

[*It is requested that all correspondence on the subject of this letter may be addressed to the Astronomer Royal.*]

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1866 October 25

Dear Sir

Mr. Brunt's paper on tides is intended for the Transactions.

I write to him to say that an Abstract will be wanted.

Ever, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully
G. B. Airy

Walter White Esq.

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.
1861 May 18

Sir

I am obliged by your additional paper regarding the Pocklington bank.

I will for the present place it with the others, in the hope shortly of entering into the general subject. Business of the Government has much delayed my attention to this and some other matters. I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

G B Airy

John Hanson Esq

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1860 May 2

Sir

My work on "Tides & Waves", which I suppose is the paper to which Mr. Bond alludes, is an article in the Encyclopædia Metropolitana. I believe that it can be obtained by purchase of the volume which contains it. The publishers are Messrs R. Griffin & Co. of Glasgow, who have an

Mr. J. Couch

agency under the same name in London. I think Stationers' Hall Court: thus you will easily learn from a bookseller.

I do not think that Sir J. Lubbock has published any separate work on Tides. There are several papers by him in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London.

Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant

G B Airy

25/-

12 pcs

Royal Observatory Greenwich
London SE
1871 October 13

Dear Sir

I can have no objection to the publication of portrait and memoir in the serial which you mention.

My family tell me that the photograph which pleases them best is a three-quarter face by Watkins.

When the memoir is in proof, there might be some advantage in my seeing it.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully
G Airy

Edward Walford Esq.

DSI

[*It is requested that all correspondence on the subject of this letter may be addressed to the Astronomer Royal.*]

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.
1868 October 13

My dear Sir

I have entertained the idea of erecting on the Start Point a time-signal, to be worked from Greenwich, exhibiting a signal at every hour. The reason for selecting the Start Point is, that it appears to be the last headland made by outward-bound ships on long voyages; and the reason for proposing a signal every hour is, that, in the ordinary course of pacing, a ship would be sure to catch one signal.

Now the motive for proposing this

Captain Henry Toynbee

time equal is twofold: — that it is understood that ships' chronometers change their rates on going to sea — and that in the run from the Thames to the start there might be length of sea-voyage sufficient to give correction of their rates.

Now will you give me your information and opinion on both these points.

I suppose the fact of change of rates is exceedingly vague: but if you could give me an idea of what it amounts to and whether going rather than losing or the contrary, it would have great value.

Ever, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

G. Airy

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich
S.E.

1873 March 14

Gentlemen

I return by our Carrier Gridley the two volumes of Mr. G. L. Taylor's Autobiography, which I trust will reach you in perfectly good order.

I am much obliged by your prompt attention in sending these for my perusal, as well as the defective sheet of plans for myself.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

G. Airy

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1881 June 13

Sir

I do not possess a single copy of either of my Accounts of Experiments in the Hartley Colliery.

One was a detached pamphlet, of which no account can be given.

The other (the authentic paper) is in the Philosophical Transactions. Probably you will find that serial work at the Philosophical Society of Newcastle

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant

Saml John Crookes Esq

E. Atkin

Saint John Crookes

Penshaw

Fence Houses

Durham

Prof. H. B. Darby

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

ENGE·HOUSE
B
14 JUS
81

DSI

The White House,
Croom's Hill,
Greenwich Park.
S.E.

1883 Sept 4

Sir

My first published paper is "On the use of silvered glass for the Mirrors of Reflecting Telescopes", Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, ~~1822~~ 1822.

A most elaborate list of the works of almost every known author is published by the Royal Society. You will learn more of it by inquiring at the Society's Apartments, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Your obedient servant

J. Herschel

Mr. F. A. Cox

Sir G B Airy - Astronomer Royal
Made a Lecturer in Optics at Cambridge 1826

Sub-8

Trinity College Cambridge Jan.y 28.th 1827.

My dear Buckle

I received yours this morning — shall make a point of attending your dinner — but could you have it on Friday instead of Saturday? Time at Cambridge is an object with me at present, and I could get away to on Saturday morning. As I look it a sacred duty to dine with a friend I shall be guided by your determination — if you could sent a note on Wednesday evening to Sheepshanks, 30 Woburn Place I shall receive it. The reason for my wishing to get away is that Whewell preaches next Sunday.

Whewell will send your certificate tonight

John Buckle Esq.
3. Norfolk Street Strand
London

Airy

CAMBRIDGE
JAN 29
1827

it was received by Brown acting for Whewell — and there was no address on these accounts he did not notice it before

Yours very truly

G. B. Airy

I set a printed paper (of which I hope to bring you a copy) at the Smith's Prize Examination — the order of the two first wranglers is reversed by our decision.

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London S.E.,
1873 June 24.

Dear Sir

I received, some days since, your letter of June 11 relating to the observation of the Transit of Venus 1874. I do not perfectly understand what can have happened which you suppose to be an offer from the 'conductor of the English expedition' to the Royal Academy of Stockholm, to receive some Swedish Astronomers. I am so much involved in this business (in fact, I am in great measure the conductor) that I conceive that I must have heard of it. But perhaps some friendly message has passed from the heads of the Queen's Government; if you will procure further information for me, I will endeavour to carry out your wishes and those of the Academy.

No arrangements are yet completed for the courses of our ships or for the nomination of observers. I have made extensive preparations of instruments and huts.

The stations adopted by the British Government, at

Professor Wachenbauth

my suggestion, are five; namely Alexandria, Honolulu in the Sandwich Islands, Rodrigues, Christchurch in New Zealand, and Kerguelen's Island. I have lately represented the advantage of adding another station in the Sandwich Islands; and the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory have suggested that a ship might be sent into the southern seas to try to find another station near the Antarctic Continent. But these suggestions are not yet sanctioned.

I think that a special provision for conveyance of instruments and observers must be made for each station.

In regard to the applicability of a micrometer, I doubt whether a micrometer can be made possessing sufficient accuracy where the inner contacts can be observed by the simple telescope. I hope to see $\frac{1}{7}$ of a second of arc. I do not think that any micrometer can be trusted to that exactitude. The best prospect is (I think) in the application of a micrometer to photographic images. But, in any case, I do not think that a micrometer can be used to measure the distance of Venus N. or S. from the sun's limb or E. or W. from the sun's limb: the adjustment of an equatoreal cannot be made sufficiently perfect. The only available measure will be from the nearest part of the limb and from the most distant part of the limb.

I intend to make a model like the Pulkowa model, but have not yet had time. I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

G. B. Airy

DSI

The Vicarage, Keysoe,
Kimbolton,
S. Neots.

2 August, 1862

Dear Sir

Accept my best thanks for your note received last night, and for the amusing book which followed it this morning: I have hardly had time to examine the sketches, but I can see that they are exceedingly curious: indeed my attention at present has been riveted on the WA monogram, for which my thanks are doubly due, the design and execution are both so beautiful.

DSI

I have made several attempts to form a monogram of those letters, but have never succeeded to my own satisfaction; you have now completely supplied my want.

May I ask what is the monogram impressed upon your writing-paper? A portion of it perfectly forms the sacred monogram IHS, but I hardly suppose you would make use of that for common-place correspondence; besides that it does not account for the remaining portion &.

If my dear good (or rather 'wicked' — she will recognize the epithet) cousin is still staying with you, pray give her our affectionate regards.

I am thankful that I do not possess your talent for mediæval illustration: it would occupy my time to the exclusion of every thing else.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours very truly

[Gift of Miss Lorraine Pangel]

W. Airy

J. E. Hodgkin, Esqre

Latin Scholar, and I am sure that he is not acquainted with the tidal facts.

I have seen Wimart; it is utterly impossible that Cæsar's fleet can have met there.

Lam, dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully

G B Airy

DSI

Sir George B. Airy
1861

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1860 November 7

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in sending by post another copy of my Julius Cæsar in the Archæologia. I send with it another paper which I think ought to stand as part of the discussion wherein Mr. Lewis's appears, viz. Athenæum of 1859 Sept 10: perhaps the two central leaves ought

Albert Way Esq

to be cut out, in order to make an intelligible present.

I submitted my opinion on the celebrated sentence "quo ex portu commodissimum in Britannian transjectum esse coguoverat circiter millium passuum XXX a continenti" to the best Latin scholar in England and probably the most accurate scholar living, Professor Thompson, of Trin: Coll, Cambridge; and he entirely supports my view, that it is impossible that this can have been written as a complete sentence in the shape in which it now stands. He says that there is great confusion among the MSS, in this sentence. His letter is out of my hands just now: when it returns, I will take the liberty of sending you a transcript of that part.

I am very greatly obliged by your present of M. de Saulcy's paper. I do not think that he is an accurate

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1873 June 24

My dear Sir

The Treasury have now constituted us as a new Standard Committee, for the construction of the Primary Standard: and I should be glad to have a meeting of the Committee within a fortnight.

Are you in town all this time? and is any day less convenient than others for a meeting – say at the R. Society's apartments?

Ever my dear Sir
Yours most truly
G. B. Airy

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

Dec 11 - 1843
G B Airy

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1843 December 11

My dear Sir

I am much obliged to you for your transmission of M. de Pontécoulant's memoir.

Our calculations of the Moon's places are completed, but they will admit of alteration by applying the difference between Pontécoulant's numbers and those which we have used.

The form in which our calculations are made is that of Damoiseau's Tables (edition 1824) upon which

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

tables, in fact, our calculations are based: many additions being made to them.

In order therefore to check errors of every kind, it would be best that M. de Pontecoulant's result as given to me should be in the same form as Damoiseau's, that is, that the argument for the longitude and parallax should be the time, and the argument for latitude should be the true longitude.

But this is not absolutely necessary, because Damoiseau & Mann have given latitude with either argument (mean longitude or true longitude) However, if M. de Pontecoulant has worked out the latitude in both forms I should be glad to have both.

I have inquired whether any falling star was seen here at the time at which you saw one at High Elms: but none was seen: the night was white cloudy, and there was a strong halo round the Moon.

I am my dear Sir
Yours truly
G. B. Airy

3

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1845 Feb 5

My dear Sir

The reduction of the lunar Observations is now so far advanced that I am making preparations for the investigation, from the observations, of the correction of the Coefficients and Epochs of some of the principal inequalities.

It would be feasible at the same time to investigate the magnitude of any two or three terms which you would point out as requiring empirical

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

determination.

Would you therefore have the kindness to think over this and to give me instructions as to the terms which you would wish so to determine. I will attend to them as far as is possible.

Lam, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

G. Mitchell

4 Royal Observatory Greenwich
1845 Aug 31

My dear Sir

I hope that you will be prepared with a paper for the Board of Visitors on the Physics & Distribution of the Greenwich Observations to which allusion was made in our correspondence some months since.

Ever my dear Sir
Yours very truly
G B Airy

Dr J. H. Lefroy R.A.

5

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1888 Feb 12

My dear Sir

Will you allow me to accept your invitation for March to conditionally, or rather contingently? I am not absolutely sure that I shall not be hampered at Sherwich about that time, in reference to some lectures which I am to give the Museum there. But if I were free, I should be much pleased at being permitted to join your party.

Ever, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly
J. C. Adams

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

Royal Observatory Greenwich
18th April 18

My dear Sir

I have lately received a letter from Carlini who not long before had found a parcel of books which had been locked up a year at Genoa and which contained among other things some of your travaux upon the Lunar Theory; he particularly begs me to request you to send him the two first parts which he has not yet received; they will reach him if sent to Rolandi, foreign bookseller, whose address in London I forget but you will find it in a Directory.

I am my dear Sir
Yours very truly

Rev. J. W. Herschel Bart. &c. &c. &c.

051

7

Royal Humane Society
18th March 2

My dear Sir

I shall with much pleasure dine with you on the 13th or the day be back Northampton

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly
[illegible]

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1879 March 19

My dear Sir

I send by Carrier
our copy of Peyffarth's
remarks about the Ancient
Eclipses & the Moon's
Node.

When you have read
it to your satisfaction,
will you return it.

Ever my dear Sir
Yours truly
G. B. Airy

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

9

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1847 March 26

My dear Sir

No alteration of g which is consistent with the observations of last century will be sufficient for Seyffarth's demand.

I am sure that you must look to the terms depending on the square of the time.

I am my dear Sir
Yours very truly
G B Airy

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

DSI

10

Playford near Ipswich
Wed April 2

My dear Sir

I have had a very important letter from Hansen on the slow inequality of the Moon.

He has worked up inequalities of secular motion to 4th order of disturbing force, but finds no sensible correction for mean longitude or mean anomaly; he had not completed node.

He then turned his attention to planets, and from Venus he obtained two important terms.

Putting g for Moon's mean anomaly (about the Earth), g' for that of Venus and

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

g'' for that of the Earth (both about the Sun) he finds two equations depending on

$$g - 16g' + 18g''$$

and

$$8g' - 13g''$$

The coefficient of the former is a little less than 20'', and that of the latter a little greater than 20''. The first is produced by the direct effect of Venus; the second partly by the effect, and partly by the indirect effect ~~produced~~ which Venus disturbing the earth produces in the Sun's action on the Moon.

I wish you could see my country seat here; it is somewhat different from yours at High Elms. It is a real Labourer's cottage to which I have added one room. I manage however to put all my children into it.

Ever my dear Sir

Yours truly

G. B. Airy

The equations which Hansen has found do very nearly represent the observed inequality of the Moon.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1847 June 30

My dear Sir

I do not yet fully understand your perturbations, but I think that I begin to see daylight.

It will be difficult to find a computer who understands Algebra so far as to be able to transform a formula. I know none except one or two of my own ~~computer~~ Assistants, and even their algebraic work must be revised. I have supernumerary computers who can work out numerically any of yours formulæ perfectly well. I am my dear Sir

Yours truly

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart. G. B. Airy

12

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1851 Nov. 7

My dear Sir

I omitted to acknowledge the receipt several days ago of the Letter of Credit on Madeira with which you have obliged me. It came duly to hand, and I thank you much for your kind attention.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours truly

G. B. Airy

Sir J. W. Lubbock, Bart.

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1852 Dec 24

My dear Sir

I am sorry to have given you so much trouble, and much obliged by your courtesy. The £7 appears to me very far too much; it is more than I can afford to pay from private funds, and more than I can venture to draw from public ones. At your convenience therefore will you

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart
&c &c

oblige me by letting one of your clerks send the paper to me?

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

[illegible]

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1853 Feb 17

My dear Sir

I have been endeavouring to accommodate a day of Standard Meeting to the ties of our Members as well as I can; but it is not easy. I find that some are prevented by Public Business from coming on the days that would best suit you. The

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

most convenient day, all circumstances considered, is Wednesday March 2.

Perhaps you could strain your private engagements for that one day. If there is a prospect of that, we will have a meeting as early in the day as the Cambridge men can come, and do some really serious business.

You shall have formal notice.

Ever, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

L. Stilly

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1853 Feb 19

My dear Sir

I should be glad to do any thing to make our future Report public, but it strikes me that, as a matter of propriety, we could hardly do it. The disposal of the Report belongs to the authority to whom we report.

That authority could

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

publish it: — or, as it is in every respect a paper on public business, a member of the House of Commons or of the House of Lords (Lord Wharncliffe for instance) might call for it

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly
C. R. Addy

(7

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1853 May 21

My dear Sir

In the last Athenaeum
May 14 is an article by me
on Decimal Coinage.
Peacock writes to me, Can
it be put into the Times?
I have no interest with the
Times, but you have
— perhaps you could manage
it. I inclose a copy.

Yours my dear Sir
very truly

G B Airy

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart

DSI

13 (1R2) B Airy

P

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1852 October 28

My dear Sir

The Report to which Mr. Hankey alludes (the references to which, in the newspapers, seem to have corrupted the word Restoration into Reduction) is a Blue Book, "Report of the Commissioners appointed to consider the steps to be taken for the restoration of the Standards of Length and Weight, 1841" presented to Parliament &c. My stock of copies is exhausted, but it can doubtless be procured at the Parliamentary Paper Office, as usual.

Sir J. W. Lubbock Bart.

Mary 17 Oct 88

I shall be very much obliged to Mr. Hankey if he could let me have a copy of the Tables for the purchase and sale of Gold and Silver under the decimal-scale arrangements

Under existing circumstances, it is proper that 12 ounces of the Bank weights should be tested by comparison with authentic Troy Pounds. But I trust that the Bank will do nothing to perpetuate that now useless weight the Troy Pound. The large weights which the Bank requires are multiples of the Troy Ounce rising by the decimal scale; and the most convenient would be

1, 2, 3, 4
10, 20, 30, 40,
100, 200, 300, 400
1000
} Troy Ounces

These would weigh a little beyond 2000 ounces, which I suppose would suffice. But if heavier weights were required I should go on with

1000, 2000, 3000, 4000

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

C. R. Ely

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1836 Feb 16

Sir

I beg to acknowledge your note of yesterday, and to mention in reply that I have no connexion or feelings whatever on the matter of the Railroad experiments except in an official character, and that in that character I do not feel myself at liberty to publish any thing about them or (so far as my influence extends) to permit any

John Herschel Esqre
&c &c &c

DSI

publication. I trust that it will be sufficient for me to say, that the experiments were under my direction, that but for the understood ~~relations~~ connections among gentlemen I should have excluded all persons except the friends whom I requested to assist me, and that if I had supposed that any one present intended to publish an account, I should have immediately desisted.

Perhaps it would be best that you should address a note to the Secretary of the Admiralty — or send him the proof and ask if he objects to the publication. If it possible that he may have no objection whatever.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

G. B. Airy

any

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.
1879 October 25

Dear Sir

Your letter of 23d has reached me in the country; – I return to Greenwich in 2 or 3 days.

I have no recollection whatever of the paper respecting Professor Pritchard to which you advert. If you could give me the approximate date, I could probably find it. But it will be best to send me the packet, as you suggest.

1871 In regard to Sir Rowland Hill's astronomical position; I know that

G. B. Hill Esq.

he was a very early member of the R. Astronomical Society, of which he had a life-ticket; I have seen him at the Club of the Society, but I am not sure whether he was a member of the Club; and I know that he took interest in Astronomy and in its advances. But I think that he never wrote on it, or that he made any communication to the R. A. Society.

I am, dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours

G. Airy

278

Royal Observatory Greenwich 1836 May 31

Bestowmann
2K
100

My dear Sir

I returned from a ~~journey~~ joining into the North (made after leaving Cambridge) this morning, and found Major Moor's packet and letter. This is the reason of the second long delay which the paper has experienced. I have had very great pleasure in adding my name to those of our valued College friends. — I trust that it will not be too late. I regret that I could not see Major Moor.

I beg my best respects to Mr Wood whom I had the pleasure of meeting in one of my last visits to Suffolk.

I am my dear Sir

Yours very truly

G B Airy

W. O. Wood Esqre

Astronomer

DSI

AIRY

Royal Observatory Greenwich 1845 Dec 29

Gentlemen

Some time since you published a work entitled

Magnetical Investigations
by the
Rev. William Scoresby BD
in
Part 1.

I should be much obliged if you would send a copy of this (and of any other Parts that may be since published) to the address

A Monsieur
Monsieur Darondeau
aux soins de M. Daussy
au Dépôt General des Cartes
No. 13. Rue de l'Université
à Paris

and charge the price and the carriage to me so that it may be delivered to M. Daussy free of expence. I will immediately discharge the bill. I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

G B Airy

Messrs Longman & Co.

DSI

Sir G. Airy Astronomer.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1858 May 29

Sir

I had a strong impression while ~~of~~ writing my acknowledgment that a sum was due to you in respect of the translation of Lepsius.

I shall have occasion before long to send a Messenger on business of this class, and will give due attention to your account.

Lam, Sir,
Your obedient servant

G B Airy

Dr William Bell

DSI

Sir G. Airy
Astronomer.

Royal Observatory Greenwich
S.E.
1859 Sept. 3

Dear Sir

I send by Post a controversial article about Julius Cæsar, which if not too long perhaps you could insert in the next Athenæum.

I will attend instantly to Proofs.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully

G. B. Airy

Hepworth Dixon Esq.

Sir Geo Airy
Astronomer.

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich
London S.E.

1861 May 20

Dear Sir

Your letter of Saturday, which reached Greenwich only at 8 in the evening, places me in considerable difficulty, which perhaps would have been avoided if you had written one post earlier.

I know nothing about the Commemoration and the right to Admission Tickets. And I have no title to interrupt the

W. S. Aldis Esq.

Vice Chancellor's leisure at hours which are not usually appropriated to public business, and should not do so if the matter concerned myself.

I inclose a note for the Vice Chancellor, such as, under my very imperfect acquaintance with the business, I can perhaps address to him. But I send it <u>expressly on this condition</u>, that the Vice Chancellor be not troubled with it at time or place unusual for public business of the University. If, with this condition, it can answer your purpose, I shall be glad.

Ever, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

G. B. Airy

DSI

By W. S. Aldis Esq. B.A. Trin: Coll:

Requesting Admission Tickets for Commemoration

The Honble and Rev^d

The Vice Chancellor

Magdalene Lodge

G B Airy

DSI

July 14. 64

—

G B Airy.

—

Papers signed &
returned
& H M to the Admiralty for transmission to the Foreign

20/7

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

London, S.E.

1864 July 14

My Lord

I have by a single day missed the opportunity of placing these papers before you in London.

Will you have the kindness to look at them, and return them to me with any comments, and if you see fit will you attach your signature?

Your Lordship's signature is required in four places,

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Montagle

&c &c &c

716

namely

Memorandum of March 5

Both Memoranda of April 29

The Final Report of July 14.

It will be desirable that the papers be returned to me as soon as may consist with your Lordships' convenience.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordships' very faithful servant

G. Baird

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

London, S.E.

1864 June 27

My dear Sir

In order to keep you au courant in the matter of H. Breen's reductions of Bradley's early Greenwich observations, I send you per Book Post copies of the 7 skeleton forms which Breen has sketched and which are now being printed for him.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly

G B Airy

Professor Adams

11

airy 13/1

336

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

18 64, April 18.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, at the Royal Observatory, of — copies of the Astronomical and Meteorological Observations made at the U. S. N. Observatory, Washington during the year 1862

presented by you to this Establishment, and to me,

I request that you will be pleased to accept the expression of my thanks for this present to the Royal Observatory, and to myself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

G. B. Airy

To Lieut. J. M. Gillis U. S. N.

DSI

in the summer to ~~Dr~~ Canon Miller's daughter) at Wellington College; but she is to return today.

I beg you to present my respectful remembrances to Mrs. Moor.

I am, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours

G. Perry

Hamsteed House, Greenwich Park,
London, S.E.

3

1874 Feb. 23

My dear Sir

I received two or three days ago your and Mrs. Moor's kind invitation to me and my daughter Christabel to spend a short time with you in Cornwall. I regret to say that I see no prospect of our being able to respond as I and Christabel could wish

Rev. Allen P. Moor

DSI

to your hospitable proposal. Really the longer I live, and of course the weaker I grow, the more does business seem to increase on me. To men connected with the Government, the spring is always a rather busy time; and this year I have a very heavy charge in preparations for the Transit of Venus. My first party is to sail in June, and, till then, I am scarcely free. Moreover, I am getting into that elderly-gentlemanly state which makes a man almost unwilling and unfit to live any where except in his own or his quasi-own house.

My wife is in a very sad state of health; it has varied little now for some months. But it tends to prevent my leaving home; and the constant attendance of at least one of our daughters is so necessary that it makes it almost impossible for either of them to be absent for so long. Christabel went on Saturday to visit my son Bernard (married

DSI

Mr. Airy presents his compliments to the Lord Mayor, and begs to acknowledge the invitation of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress to a Conversazione at the Mansion House on the 8th of June.

Mr. Airy regrets much that engagements connected with his office will probably compel him to give his

personal attention to the affairs of the Observatory that the time named by the Lord Mayor. Mr. Airy is therefore obliged to decline the Lord Mayor's considerate invitation.

Royal Observatory Greenwich
1853 May 20.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1876 June 1

Dear Sir

I should be much obliged if you could send me a copy of the following No. of the "Proceedings of the Royal Society".

Volume XIX, 1871, page 448.

I am prepared to pay for it, on the understood Tariff.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

G Rodriguez

Walter White Esq.

DS1

Hamstead Home
1873 April 23

My dear Miss Learmonth

If the weather continues fine, I will call on you at 1.30 today.

If not, I must delay till Friday.

I am,
my dear Miss Learmonth,
Yours very truly
G Boldy

DSI

Royal Observatory Greenwich 1875 Jan. 4

Gentlemen

Your Catalogue of Books late the property of Professor Henderson to be sold on January 13, 14, & 15, has lately been put in my hands; and I place on the other side a list of books which I should be much obliged by your purchasing for me.

With regard to the prices I can only say that I should be obliged by your securing the books for me if they are sold fairly. As I have not seen them, it is impossible for me to give more definite instructions for the price of each. But I shall be glad to have all.

I am, Gentlemen
Your obedient servant

G. B. Airy

Messrs R. H. Zeitlin & Co

G B Airy
Lantz 1846

Airy Sir George Biddell (1801–1892)

Royal Observatory, Greenwich
1853 October 25

Abt a monument to Arago

Sir

I have to acknowledge receipt of the letter of M. Combes, dated October 20, communicating the intention of several of M. Arago's admirers to take steps for erecting a monument to the memory of my late honored friend.

It is to me matter of pride

A Monsieur
Monsieur F. A. Barral
&c &c &c

to be associated in this work, and I shall have great pleasure in contributing to the subscription.

As a foreigner to France, it will perhaps be well that I should abstain from naming any sum of money until I shall have seen what sums are contributed by Frenchmen who have taken the lead in this proposal.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant

G. Boldy

DSI

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E.

1879 April 8

Sir

The Comet of 1682 was that remarkable body known as "Halley's Comet", a periodical comet going round the sun in 76-77 years. Its last appearance was in 1835-1836; I saw it myself.

I should have expected a note in the Bristol Records of the Comet of 1680, which seems to have been even more conspicuous.

W. H. Ince Esq.

With regard to the photograph by Mault, it was a very good one, and my friends tell me that my features have not sensibly altered, but the colour of my hair is greatly changed. Possibly Mault could at once give its date by referring to the collection of photographs of the Astronomical Society. I shall be happy to attach my signature. — if the date of photo-graphing is denied, please inquire as above-mentioned.

Lam Sir

Yours faithfully

J Riley

33

Pneumatic. 26. Dez. 1865

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

1865, December 4

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that a copy of the Greenwich Observations 1863 and the Pneumatic Catalogues of 1305 Stars

presented to the Austrian Marine Observatory by authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, have been forwarded by the Austrian Embassy to your address

I request the favor of an acknowledgment of receipt.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

G. Airy

To Sr. J. Schaub
Observatory of the
Imp: Roy: Austrian Marine
Triest

DSI

SIR GEORGE BIDDELL AIRY,

K.C.B., F.R.S., ASTRONOMER ROYAL,

BORN at Alnwick, Northumberland, in 1801, was sent, at the age of eighteen, to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he was elected Fellow in 1824, having graduated B.A. in the previous year as Senior Wrangler. In 1826 he was elected Lucasian Professor, and soon afterwards he commenced a remarkable series of lectures on the Undulatory Theory of Light. In 1828 he was elected to the Plumian Professorship, and in that capacity was intrusted with the entire management of the Cambridge Observatory. In 1835 he succeeded Mr. Pond as Astronomer Royal. In this capacity he has distinguished himself by giving greater regularity to the proceedings in the Observatory at Greenwich, by maintaining the general outline of the plan which its essential character and associations have imposed upon that institution, while he has introduced new instruments, and new modes of calculation and publication, by which the value of the Observatory to science is much increased. In 1838 he was consulted by the Government respecting the disturbance of the compass in iron-built ships; and the result of the experiments and theory developed by him was the establishment of a system of mechanical correction by means of magnets and iron, which has since been adopted universally. He has also thrown much light on ancient chronology, by computing several of the most important eclipses of former ages. Three times he visited the Continent for the purpose of observing solar eclipses. He was chairman of two Royal Commissions appointed to consider the question of Standards of Weights and Measures. Acting as one of three Royal Commissioners on Railway Gauge, he recommended the adoption of the broad gauge on our railways. He conducted the astronomical operations preparatory to the definition of the boundary between Canada and the United States, and aided in tracing the Oregon boundary. In 1869 he communicated a remarkable discovery to the Royal Astronomical Society, in a "Note on Atmospheric Chromatic Dispersion, as affecting Telescopic Observation, and on the mode of correcting it." He was created a K.C.B. in 1872. Sir G. B. Airy was intrusted with the entire direction of the British portion of the enterprise for observing the Transit of Venus in December, 1874; and lately he has suggested a new method of treating the Lunar Theory, the calculations for which are now in hand. Sir G. B. Airy, who has received medals from many learned societies for his discoveries, has filled the office of President of the Royal Society, and is one of the eight Foreign Associates of the Institute of France.

Royal Observatory Greenwich 1845 Dec. 29

Gentlemen:

Some time since you published a work entitled
Magnetical Investigations
by the
Rev. William Scoresby B.D.

Part 1.

I should be much obliged if you would send a copy of this (and of any other parts that may be since published) to the address

A Monsieur
Monsieur Darondeau
aux soins de M. Daussy
au Depôt General des Cartes
No. 13 Rue de l'Université
à Paris

and charge the price and the carriage to me so that it may be delivered to Mr. Daussy free of expence. I will immediately discharge the bill. I am Gentlemen
Your obedient servant

Messrs. Longman & Co.

AUTOGRAPHE

de

Airy

Sir George Biddell

OBSERVATIONS

1) L. a. s. 2 p. 4°, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 20. X 1849, gerichtet an den Astronomen Arago. Entschuldigung der Schreiben des Antwortschreibens und Entschädigung des Schreibers, den Empfänger verdächtigt zu haben, mit Mr. Frayne's Angriffen auf seine Person übereinzustimmen.

2) L. a. s. 1½ p. 4° Royal Observatory Greenwich, 3. 7. 1841 gerichtet an Prof. Oersted, Kopenhagen, dankt für seine Ernennung zum Mitgl. v. Ak. v. W. in Kopenhagen. Mit Samt. Geheimrat von Reden.

Airy (spr. ärí), Sir George Biddell, Astronom, geb. 27. Juli 1801 zu Alnwick in Northumberland, gest. 4. Jan. 1892 in London, studierte in Cambridge, wurde 1828 Professor und Direktor der Sternwarte daselbst und war 1836—81 Direktor der Sternwarte in Greenwich. 1872 wurde ihm die Ritterwürde verliehen. Er schrieb: »Gravitation, an elementary explanation of the principal perturbations in the solar system« (Lond. 1834, 2. Aufl. 1885; deutsch von Hoffmann: »Die Gravitation«, Leipz. 1891); »Six lectures on astronomy, delivered at Ipswich Museum« (1851 u. ö.; deutsch, Berl. 1852); »Algebraical and numerical theory of errors of observations« (2. Aufl. 1875); »On the undulatory theory of optics« (2. Aufl. 1877); »Atmospheric chromatic dispersion, as affecting telescopic observation, and on the mode of correcting it« (1869); »Notes on the earlier Hebrew scriptures« (1876); »Sound and atmospheric vibrations« (2. Aufl. 1871); »Treatise on magnetism« (1870; deutsch von Tietjen, Berl. 1874); »Numerical lunar theory« (Lond. 1886). Seine »Autobiography« gab Wilfrid Airy heraus (Lond. 1896).

5 **AIRY** (SIR GEORGE BIDDELL, 1801-1892). Astronomer Royal.
AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED TO M. ARAGO.
2 pp., 4to. Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 20th October, 1849.

[redacted]

An interesting letter of explanation and excuse for the writer's mistake in supposing M. Arago had sanctioned Mr. Frayne's attack on him.

DSI

AIRY, G

A.L.S. dated July 14, 1864

AIRY, G. Sir
Astronomer
1801-1892

A. L. S. Dated Dec. 29, 1845 to Longmans, Publishers ordering a copy of Scoresby's "Magnetical Investigations"

AIRY, G. B. Sir
1801-92
Astronomer

A. L. S. to Professor Adams regarding Breen's reduction of Bradley's early Greenwich observations

6 Airy, Sir G. B. Noted Astronomer. A.L.s. 1 page, 8vo. Greenwich, Sept. 3, 1859. $2.00

AIRY, Sir George B. (1801-1892) Astronomer Royal.

A.L.S. to H.C. Sorby.

3pp. 8vo. Royal Observatory, Greenwhich: Nov. 16th, 1861.

£5. 5. 0d. Fletcher 67

Saying that he could not give a lecture to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Sheffield; and that if he could he would not use the same illustrations as those used for a lecture on the Solar Eclipse, in Manchester. He would like to help a provincial scientific society, and would do so later on, if it became possible.

265. Airy (Sir George, *Astronomer Royal*, 1801-1892) £1
2½ pp., from Greenwich Royal Observatory, to W. S. Aldis, 20 May 1861: Aldis had asked him to recommend him to Magdelene vice-chancellor for tickets for Commemoration: Airy is somewhat embarrassed & makes conditions. MATHEWS-62

510. AIRY (Sir George Biddell) 51-line letter written to Albert Way, on notepaper headed Royal Observatory, Greenwich, London, S.E., dated 7 November 1860. Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal, was born at Alnwick in Northumberland in 1801. He attended the grammar school at Colchester. In 1826 was elected Lucasian Professor of Maths at Cambridge. His tenure of the office of Astronomer-Royal lasted 46 years. He was consulted about the launch of the Great Eastern, the laying of the Atlantic cable, Babbage's calculating machine, the chimes of Westminster clock, and countless other important projects. He was D.C.L. of Oxford, Ll.D. of Cambridge, F.R.S., and the Czar sent him a gold metal specially struck. Among honours he received were Pour Le Mérite of Prussia, Legion of Honour, North Star of Sweden, Rose of Brazil. Also 3-page letter written by W. Airy, his brother, dated 1862. The 2: $21.00, £7/10/- Eaton '67

Rindell

8. **AIRY, G. B.** English astronomer. ALS, 2 pages, 8vo, 1870. To Capt. Toynbee, responding to a criticism of his lecture. "...My statement was quite correct in the sense in which I gave it, that is...as superseding the...observations in the circumstances in which I had spoken of the arimuth observations, namely in the old wood built ships. When I uttered my words I do not think that I had once used the expression iron built ships. Perhaps I was not sufficiently guarded at the time, but I was fully prepared to guard myself. You will find the process to which you allude described in the *Syllabus*, bottom of page 15. Moreover, to show that a skillful person may mechanically diminish the trouble a little, I have a dumb card to produce." $32.50

"I WISH TO SUPPRESS THE BOOK"

41 **Burr, Aaron.** American Statesman; Vice-President of the U. S. A.L.s. 1 full page 4to; with the address leaf; franked

249. Ward (James, R.A., 1769-1859) Watercolour, £8
signed, *a donkey* with pack-saddle, 3½ × 5 inches, 90 × 128 mm.

250. Whistler (Rex, 1905-1944) Watercolour, *signed* £65
in full, *dated* 1925, inscribed " *Medusa.*" This is number 229, on page 36, of Laurence Whistler's & Ronald Fuller's " The Works of Rex Whistler "

Purple cloth. Written on title page: "With the author's compliments". Sir [illegible] General, Col-Commandant Royal Artillery, was educated with Benjamin Disraeli. In 1845 he became Commissioner of Hazara in Pakistan, and Abbottabad, named after him, is a permanent memorial of his work in that country. The D.N.B. says, 'He had both poetical feeling and literary ability' $9.80, £3/10/-

dyeing, with many small samples of dyed leather stuck or sewn in to illustrate. Over 400pp, though not all were used. Very interesting information of all kinds of leather processing at that time, and also details of woollen cloth dyeing. Tipped in are two typescripts, undated, the first of 8pp giving details of the 'Dressing of 400 small calf', tanning, finishing and 'Receipts for colours for 10 dozen small calf', etc. The second consists of 4pp notes pertaining to the first lot of instructions. $56.00, £20

516 VARNISHES. 4 typescripts on the making of varnishes, [illegible]

Col. Little, with integral address leaf, sending his correspondent information on land he owns in Poland. $25.00

19. **[AMERICAN REVOLUTION].** *A Journal of the...House of Representatives... for the State of Massachusetts-Bay....* May, 1777, 14 pages, legal folio. Printed in Boston by Thomas and John Fleet. Evans No. 15409. Accounts of the General Assembly with respect to the retreat from Ticonderoga, reinforcements of militia to the armies of Generals Washington and Schuyler, raising of militia and applications for fire-arms, provisions made to employ recruiting officers, a resolve directing the Board of War to begin fortifications in Boston Harbor, orders for the manufacture of salt peter, orders for the protection of vessels, [illegible]

13 **AIRY, SIR GEORGE B.** [1801-1892.] Astronomer Royal. A.L.S., 4 pages, 1874. $3.00

A long interesting letter referring to the important British expedition of 1874 to observe the transit of Venus.

9. **AIRY, G. B.** ALS, 2 pages, 8vo, 1850. To Messrs. Josselyn and Westhorp. "All the information that I can give you about the state of the wind on 1847 Sept. 16 is to be found in the printed *Greenwich Magnetical and Meteorological Observations....*'

Rendell-72 $17.50

Somerville - Rendell

AIRY, SIR GEORGE B. 1801-1892. Distinguished astronomer. Astronomer Royal rom 1835 to 1881. Group of twelve A.L.S. rom the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, hiefly of scientific interest. In 1873 he peaks of the proposed expedition to oberve the transit of Venus in 1874. Airy led his expedition. The group. [7] $25.00

10 AIRY, SIR GEORGE B. (1801-1892). Distinguished English astronomer. A.L.S., one page, quarto, 1845. Seeking to buy books from the library of the astronomer Thomas Henderson. $12.50

Goodspeed-68

AIRY, G. B.

17 Letters to Sir J. W. Lubbock

(Goodspeed-1965)

AIRY, SIR GEORGE B.(1801-1892) Astronomer Royal

A.L. in the 3rd person, to the Lord Mayor.

2pp. 8vo. Royal Observatory, Greenwich: May 20th. 1853.
Declining an invitation to the Mansion House. "Mr. Airy regrets much that engagements connected with his office will probably compel him to give his personal attention to the affairs of the Observatory....."

FLETCHER-58

---------- A.L.S. to Walter White.

1p. 8vo. Royal Observatory, Greenwich: June 1st. 1876.
Asking for a number of the proceedings of the Royal Acoiety.

France

42 **BERNADOTTE, JEAN.** Prince of Ponte-Corvo; King Charles XIV of Sweden. L.S., two pages, as Marshal of France, to the Minister of War. Written

dren, and others. Trusting no individual t
sign such releases, we find this folio docu
ment signed by Barras, Claude Lomon
who was to serve under Napoleon, Boudi
member of the committee of public safet
and the council of five hundred, Garnie
friend of Danton and one who assisted i
the overthrow of Robespierre, and Le
gendre, a Paris butcher, who fought for

salt petre, orders for the protection of vessels, a recommendation for the various states to support the war, as far as possible, by taxation, recommendations for suppl

To Edward Collin of Copenhagen, son of his patron, Counselor Jonas Collin. Unpublished. Mentioned as among the lost letters in *H. C. Andersen's Brevveksling,* with the almost correct conjectural date of Aug. 4, 1860.

(Trans.) ". . . If Reitze [his publisher] comes to you regarding the new edition of the latest 'New Fairytales and Stories.' You know that I should receive 100 Reichsthaler for each 1000 copies. . . ." He continues about financial affairs and his travel